## What are you reading?

It's a common question we ask ourselves, our friends, our families and even complete strangers. It's a conversation starter, a general interest question, an attempt to elicit a recommendation, or a quest for reader's advisory. Either way, some of the best books we read come from the suggestions others have made to us. We discover books we've never heard of or try out books we might not have otherwise engaged in.

Now, several websites and apps make it easy for us to answer the question "what are you reading" by sharing our selections and interests with others. Called "social cataloging" websites, they allow us to list our preferences, detail our reading lists, and add reviews when we are done. They also allow us to see what our friends are reading, comment on their activity, and suggest books they might like.

My current favorite is <u>Goodreads</u> which I link up through my Facebook account. Using a relatively simple platform, Goodreads allows you to list what you've read, want to read, and are currently reading. It even allows you to create "custom" lists. For example, what are you "listening to", if you are an audio book user. You can share your selections with friends on your list, comment on activity, and join groups based on your interests. Goodreads also allows you to follow author's of interest and even occasionally sends invites to online author events.

A similar website is <u>Shelfari</u> allows you to link up with friends and follow their reading interests as well. The "community" feature suggests people to follow and also links you up with categories of books that might interest you, such as "Arts & Entertainment" and "The Reading Life".

<u>Library Thing</u> allows you to catalog your books based on your interests and desires. It allows you to "tag" your book with certain identifiers and do so on the books of others. Like the other websites, Library Thing will link you with friends or with users of similar interest. The "Zeitgeist" page provides a variety of fun, informative statistics on the site users and the books they are focusing on right now.

Of course, social cataloging extends beyond books. For those of us who love movies, several sites provide the opportunity to catalog, rate, and make lists of some of our favorite films all while sharing our interests with friends and strangers. The well-know Internet Movie Database (IMDB) allows you to create lists, provide ratings, and join a community, all by just creating a log in. Another site is Flixster which allows you to share with your friends your recent movie finds, ratings, and lists.

Several more social cataloging sites exist beyond the ones listed here. <u>This entry</u> from Mashable details the Top 10 Social Cataloging sites for Movie Lovers. This <u>great article</u> from *Wired* talks about some of the social cataloging websites above and much more.

Happy Sharing!